

14 November 1978

The Editor
Michigan Daily
University of Michigan
420 Maynard Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

Dear Sir:

In your 24 October 1978 editorial, "The CIA on Campus," you contend that "no one seems to have authority over the CIA," that the CIA has "too long been permitted to continue their surreptitious activities outside the sphere of civilian control" and "that the agency has gotten out of control is apparent." This assertion is incorrect both historically and as regards CIA activities today.

The Senate Select Committee chaired by Senator Church stated in Book I of its final report, "The CIA has come to be viewed as an unfettered monolith, defining and determining its activities independent of other elements of government and of the direction of American foreign policy. This is a distortion. During its twenty-nine year history, the Agency has been shaped by the course of international events, by pressures from other government agencies, and by its own internal norms. An exhaustive history of the CIA would demand an equally exhaustive history of American foreign policy, the role of Congress and the Executive, the other components of the Intelligence Community, and an examination of the interaction among all these forces."

Although never released to the public, the report of the House Committee on Intelligence (Pike Committee) was reported in Village Voice to have arrived at an even more categorical conclusion concerning the control of the CIA: "All evidence in hand suggests that the CIA, far from being out of control, has been utterly responsive to the instructions of the President and the Assistant to the President for Security Affairs."

After the first session of the 95th Congress came to a close, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, reported to the Senate that, "There is no question that a number of abuses of power, mistakes in judgment, and failures

by the intelligence agencies have harmed the United States. In almost every instance, the abuses that have been revealed were a result of direction from above, including Presidents and Secretaries of State. Further, in almost every instance, some members of both Houses of Congress assigned the duty of oversight were knowledgeable about these activities. "

Today, the President's Executive Order 12036, signed January 24, 1978 (copy enclosed) lays out specific directions for carrying out intelligence activities, restrictions on those activities, and creates several new mechanisms for oversight.

In the Executive Branch, the new Intelligence Oversight Board, composed of three distinguished civilians from outside the government, are directed to investigate all allegations of illegal or improper intelligence activity. Anyone may communicate directly with that Board. Their findings go directly to the President.

In the Legislative Branch, a select committee on intelligence exists in both the Senate and the House. They are kept fully informed of intelligence activities and, in turn, exercise genuine control over all such activities. There is no question in my mind or in the mind of anyone in the Intelligence Community that we are held accountable for what we do.

These two Congressional committees are now in the process of drafting charters which will codify in federal law the various restrictions and limitations as well as the missions of the Intelligence Community. I fully and actively support that endeavor.

Consequently, rather than being out of control as you allege, the United States Intelligence Community, and specifically the CIA, are under the tightest internal and external controls of their history.

Further, you find my refusal to comply with Harvard's faculty guidelines peremptory and outrageous. In fact, it is neither. The CIA and Harvard have been engaged in a productive dialogue for over a year. During that time the majority of our differences have been reconciled. There remain but three points of difference:

1. The Harvard guidelines require that relationships between Harvard faculty members and the CIA be reported to the Harvard administration.

CIA has no objection to this requirement but believes it is the prerogative of the faculty member to reveal those relationships which are external to his faculty responsibilities, not the CIA. CIA considers all such relationships private and personal. The faculty member may deal with them in any way he chooses.

2. That only relationships with intelligence agencies are required to be so revealed.

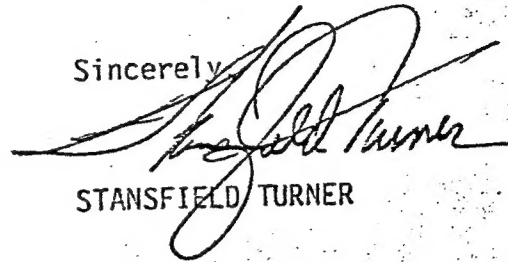
While the guidelines you propose in your subsequent editorial, "The University Guidelines" on 29 October 1978, recognizes the diverse opportunities for conflict of interest which are present on all campuses, e.g., consulting arrangements with businesses, private publication opportunities, part-time jobs, etc., Harvard's guidelines do not. It seems naive to me to assume that only a relationship with an intelligence agency has the potential for conflict or for infringing on academic or personal freedom. Additionally, this requirement infers that all other relationships are preferable to one with the U.S. Government. This is neither sound logic nor realistic. If this guideline were extended to cover all business or professional relationships external to the faculty member's university responsibilities, CIA would have no objection.

3. That CIA should not establish any confidential relationships with faculty members for the possible purpose of assessing or contacting foreign students.

Again, in light of the thousands of confidential recommendations prepared annually by faculty members for students applying to businesses, graduate schools, and other government agencies, a guideline prohibiting the same kind of recommendation to the Intelligence Community is inconsistent with recognized and accepted faculty practice. No student at a university is totally free of confidential appraisal in one form or another; none of us is either in school or at work. If a particular student's qualifications result in a specific work or study proposal by a business, another university, or a government agency, and the student is not interested, the student is free to decline the proposal. It is difficult to see how this abridges anyone's freedom.

I am enclosing a copy of the CIA's internal regulation governing our relationships with academic institutions and a statement I made at the University of Kentucky which describes those relationships and the oversight process in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stansfield Turner", written over the typed name.

STANSFIELD TURNER

Enclosures
As stated

24 October 1978

The CIA on campus

EARLIER THIS year, Harvard University took a bold stand against government spying when it banned covert recruiting of foreign students as CIA agents. Sunday, that progressive step was nullified by CIA director Stansfield Turner's peremptory announcement that his agency would not comply with the Harvard guidelines.

"If we're required to abide by the rules of every corporation, every academic institution, it would become impossible to do the required job for our country," he said, and added, "Harvard does not have any legal authority over us."

Therein lies the problem; no one seems to have authority over the CIA. These myopic chauvinists have too long been permitted to continue their surreptitious activities outside the sphere of civilian control. This summer, Congress approved the agency's budget without even knowing how much it was.

The terms "national security" and "for the good of the country" are liberally fed to the media by Mr. Turner and his cohorts, but these can hardly be justification for the gross malfeasance of the CIA: fighting the MPLA in Angola; aiding in the overthrow of the Allende

government; its role in Santa Domingo, and probably countless other immoral acts yet to be revealed.

That Harvard sought to sever its ties with the corruption and stench of the international espionage network is more than commendable, it is the only moral stance one p to any institution, and one we have encouraged the University to take. That the independent nature of the CIA permits Mr. Turner to ignore Harvard's ban is an outrage. College campuses, our pillars of intellectualism, must not be used as tools by a notorious band of international mercenaries, thieves, assassins and spies.

That the agency has gotten out of control is apparent. What is not clear is how to alleviate the problem. Since Mr. Turner is unmoved by protests or even official requests by universities; it is time for President Carter and Congress to force the director to pay heed to decency and morality — something that should have been done long ago.

The president and Congress should no longer give the CIA license to continue its repugnant and pernicious exploits on American college campuses and around the world.